

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 280854

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ORIGIN SS-25

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DRAFTED BY EA/K:EHURWITZ:CB
APPROVED BY EA - MR. ARMSTRONG
L/EA - MR. NORTON
EA/P - MR. SMITH
S/S - LREDDY
P - MR. HABIB

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P 152353Z NOV 76
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY SEOUL PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 280854

EXDIS

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, KS, US

SUBJECT: MYONGDONG TRIALS

1. COUNSELOR YU OF ROKG EMBASSY ASKED EA/K DIRECTOR HURWITZ NOVEMBER 12 WHETHER LENIENCY FOR MYONGDONG DEFENDANTS MIGHT MITIGATE BAD PUBLICITY FOR ROK BEING GENERATED IN CONNECTION WITH LOBBYING ALLEGATIONS. HURWITZ NOTED THAT MYONGDONG ISSUE HAD CREATED INTENSE INTEREST ON THE PART OF MANY AMERICANS AND CONSTITUTED A SIGNIFICANT PORTION OF CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED IN EA/K. HURWITZ NOTED THAT YU AND ROKG WERE AWARE OF US POSITION ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, OF WHICH MYONGDONG CASE SIGNIFICANT ASPECT. HE OBSERVED THAT GESTURE OF LENIENCY WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY BE SEEN AS PLUS BY THOSE CONCERNED OVER HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE.

2. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER COUNSELOR YU WAS FLOATING IDEA ON BEHALF OF ROKG. IN ANY EVENT, IF SUCH DISCUSSION
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PAGE 02 STATE 280854

ARISES IN SEOUL, EMBASSY SHOULD CONTINUE TO NOTE SIGNI-

FICANCE OF THE ISSUE AND DESIRABILITY OF EXERCISE OF
LENIENCY. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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